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# LADIES' VISITER.

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"VIRTUE OUR PRESENT PEACE....,OUR FUTURE PRIZE."

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## FOR THE VISITER.

"Familiar Histories may perhaps be made of greater use than the solemnities of professed morality, and convey the knowledge of Vice and Virtue, with more efficacy than axioms and definitions." JOHNSON.

*Concluded from Page 181.*

But few days passed away after their excursion to the cottage, that madame C.'s young friends did not receive professions of increasing esteem and tenderness from their admirers: Horatio, the initial of whose name madame Constance had before only heard, was endowed with those qualities that might naturally be agreeable to Amelia: They were congenial to her lively and cheerful disposition—open, free, and candid in his expressions; generous, sincere, and honest in his actions.

Albert was calculated by nature to accord with the reserved seriousness, and dignified manners of Catharine: Sedate in his manners, cool and deliberate in his resolves, and circumspect in his actions. Cyril likewise agreed in disposition with the mild and enthusiastic qualities of Elizabeth: possessing an easy conception, a lively and instant penetration; an agreeable fancy, vivid and accurate: he observed objects in their true colours; but he had likewise an acute sensibility, which rendered him at times resentful. But our gentle critical readers will say that this is an anomaly in the nature of things; and but little agrees with the procedure of the passions, or the sentiment of love. That two persons whose dispositions and qualities, having wide contrast, are naturally and more properly

fitted for each other. That Horatio's cheerful and lively turn would better have answered the seriousness and reservedness of Catharine ; and that Cyril's enthusiastic and fanciful powers, would have agreed with the wit and lively disposition of Amelia : for the same reasons Albert with Elizabeth. These suppositions may be very natural and conclusive ; nor can we at present attempt to controvert them, or assign any reason for such fortuitous attachments, unless it be on the same principles that a learned philosopher accounted for the fragrance of the rose, by declaring that the odoriferous particles of a decayed log, exhaled by the warmth of the sun, and wafted on the wings of the wind, was attracted by the leaves of the rose, whence was emitted the delightful fragrance so peculiar to that beautiful flower.

But we leave these things to better judges.—Madame Constance, observing the increasing partiality of her friends for the above named gentlemen, found it necessary to enter into some explication, and to give her advice ; she observed that it was sometimes difficult for women to acquire a correct knowledge of the conduct, dispositions, and abilities of the other sex. “ Our secluded situation, and natural habits, said she, necessarily precludes our mingling with them in public, or sharing in their public deliberations, and of becoming acquainted with their real sentiments and actions. When they come before us, it is often under assumed appearances and manners ; their true characters and intentions are disguised under the garb of feigned sincerity. Their gallantries and pointed assiduities are frequently the results of their wish to create in us an esteem and passionate partiality ; and by their pompous display of selfconceited abilities and pretended powers, they would impose upon our ignorance, in order to procure for themselves our praises and exalted admiration.”

“ You would, then, have us to suppose, my dear madam, said Elizabeth, that hypocrisy influences them towards our sex ; or would you only restrain our entire reliance on their honour, by suspecting their sincerity ?”

“ Far be it from me, replied madame Constance, to prevent sincere and virtuous attachments, or to destroy generous and honourable friendships ; my remarks were only intended to show that women may more readily discover the dispositions of the other sex than the motives that influence their conduct, which are so frequently disguised under becoming pretences ; but to become better acquainted with their character and disposition, is only to observe how they act and what figure they make amongst themselves.”

“ That we had in some measure, said Catharine, laughing, a tolerable opportunity to observe a few days ago : but to relate the scenes to which we were unavoidably witnesses, would



